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IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
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March 13, 2020

Paul Kjellander, President
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720

RE: *Request for a Public Hearing on Avista's 2020 Electric Integrated Resource Plan, Case No. AVU-E-19-01*

President Kjellander and Commissioners of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission:

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission ("IPUC") recently opened a case to consider the 2020 Electric Integrated Resource Plan ("IRP") for Avista Corporation, operating as Avista Utilities ("Avista"). This letter is intended to support the IPUC hosting a public meeting in reference to this case.

Idaho Forest Group ("IFG") is one of America's largest lumber producers with seven manufacturing facilities in the Inland Northwest. We have inherent interest in Avista's 2020 IRP because Avista supplies a number of our facilities with electricity. Businesses like ours depend on reliable, affordable, and clean electricity. Steady electric rates help our business plan for the future and reduce our financial risk.

At IFG, we understand that our corporate success is linked to the success of our employees, our customers, our partners, and the communities in which we operate. With this in mind, we want to ensure that Avista's IRP is effectively navigating the dramatic changes underway in the electric utility industry for our business and for the other Idaho electric customers that are inherently connected with our business. One of the surest ways for the IPUC to learn from these different points of view is to hold a public hearing.

We have noted the IPUC's demonstrated commitment to making itself available to North Idaho communities in other Avista related contexts, and we encourage the IPUC to continue that trend. Thank you for your time, consideration, and close attention to this matter.

Very Respectfully,

Tom Schultz, V.P. Resources & Governmental Affairs



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